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4 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
5 DISTRICT OF NEVADA

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7 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
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10 v.  
11 CHARLES EDWARD GENSEMER,  
12 Defendant/Petitioner.

Case No. 2:07-cr-0145-KJD-PAL

**ORDER**

13 There are several motions pending before the Court, all of which are related to Charles  
14 Edward Gensemer's proposed Motion to Vacate or Correct his Sentence under 28 U.S.C. § 2255.  
15 The first is Gensemer's Motion to Extend Time to file his petition (ECF No. 1554). The  
16 government responded (ECF No. 1555), but Gensemer did not reply. Next is Gensemer's Motion  
17 for Leave to Amend and/or File a supplemental memorandum in support his § 2255 petition  
18 (ECF No. 1559). Gensemer attached to that motion his petition to vacate or correct his sentence  
19 under 28 U.S.C. § 2255. Although that petition was filed with this Court on February 9, 2017, it  
20 was not docketed. To date, the Court has not ordered the government to respond to Gensemer's  
21 petition. The remaining motions are Gensemer's requests for documents (ECF Nos. 1563, 1573),  
22 status checks (ECF No. 1568), and motions to supplement his proposed petition (ECF Nos. 1574,  
1579).

23 Charles Edward Gensemer is currently serving a 420-month total sentence after being  
24 convicted under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO) for conspiracy  
25 to engage in a corrupt organization, drug conspiracy, and possession of a firearm during a drug  
26 trafficking offense. Gensemer's conviction was affirmed on appeal, and he now moves to vacate  
27 or correct his sentence under 28 U.S.C. § 2255. During the year after the Ninth Circuit affirmed  
28 Gensemer's conviction, Gensemer's detention facility was placed on security lock down twice.

1 During those lock downs, Gensemer lost access to the prison library, which delayed the  
2 preparation of his § 2255 petition. Fearing that he would miss his filing deadline, Gensemer  
3 requested a sixty-day extension to file his § 2255 petition (ECF No. 1554). The government  
4 opposed the extension, arguing that the Court lacked jurisdiction to preemptively extend the time  
5 to file until Gensemer actually filed his motion. Rather than respond, Gensemer drafted a bare-  
6 bones version of his motion to vacate and filed it timely. Gensemer now moves for leave to  
7 amend his rushed petition and supplement it with the version he had prepared and saved on the  
8 prison computer (ECF No. 1579).

9 The Court has reviewed Gensemer's proposed petition and finds that at least some of his  
10 claims relate back to the claims in his original petition. Further, after performing an initial review  
11 of Gensemer's remaining claims, the Court finds that it cannot conclude that he is not entitled to  
12 the relief he seeks. Accordingly, the Court orders the government to respond to the claims below  
13 within thirty days of the entry of this order. Given that those claims involve allegations of  
14 ineffective assistance of counsel, the attorney-client privilege in 2:07-0145-KJD-PAL between  
15 Charles Gensemer and his former attorney, Ozzie Fumo, shall be deemed waived for all purposes  
16 related to Gensemer's § 2255 motion to vacate. Mr. Fumo shall provide the government with  
17 affidavits concerning all information known to him relating to the allegations in Gensemer's  
18 § 2255 petition within fourteen days of entry of this order.

19 **I. Background**

20 On July 10, 2007, Gensemer and thirteen other alleged Aryan Warriors were indicted for  
21 conspiracy to engage in a Racketeer Influenced Corrupt Organization (RICO). The indictment  
22 included conspiracy charges, drug offenses, and several violent assaults. See Indictment, ECF  
23 No. 1. The government later superseded the indictment to add additional drug and firearm-  
24 possession charges. Superseded Indictment, ECF No. 181. Gensemer elected to go to trial, and  
25 on July 6, 2009, a jury found him guilty on count one (RICO conspiracy), count ten (drug  
26 conspiracy), and count fourteen (possession of a firearm during a drug trafficking offense).  
27 Judgment 1, ECF No. 1211. In December of 2009, Gensemer was sentenced to 240 months on  
28 count one, 360 months on count ten, and 60 months on count fourteen. Gensemer's 240-month

1 and 360-month sentences run concurrently, while his 60-month sentence runs consecutively. His  
2 total term of incarceration is 420 months. Id. Following his sentencing, Gensemer was assigned  
3 to FCC Pollock, a correctional institution in Pollock, Louisiana.

4 Gensemer timely appealed, and the Ninth Circuit affirmed his conviction. See Order  
5 Affirming Conviction, ECF No. 486; United States v. Wallis, No. 09-10502, 630 Fed. Appx. 664  
6 (9th Cir. Nov. 6, 2015). The Ninth Circuit issued its order affirming Gensemer's conviction on  
7 November 6, 2015. Gensemer did not petition the Supreme Court for certiorari, which finalized  
8 his direct appeal. Gensemer then began preparing a collateral attack on his conviction under 28  
9 U.S.C. § 2255. According to Gensemer, his deadline to file was February 5, 2017. Mot. to  
10 Extend 2, ECF No. 1554. However, two institutional lock downs at FCC Pollock interrupted his  
11 preparation. The first lock down occurred in July of 2016. From July 23, 2016 until August 8,  
12 2016, Gensemer was under "Institutional Lock-down for security precautions." Id. at 4. During  
13 that time, Gensemer was unable to leave his cell and lost access to the library, making it difficult  
14 to prepare his petition. About two weeks before Gensemer's deadline, the institution was again  
15 placed on lock down after inmates attacked a prison guard. That lock down began January 26,  
16 2017 and was apparently still in effect on February 9, 2017. Mot. Leave to File, ECF No. 1559  
17 Ex. A, B.

18 Gensemer requested a sixty-day extension to file his § 2255 petition on January 24, 2017.  
19 Mot. to Extend, ECF No. 1554. He argued that the lock downs were out of his control and that he  
20 was unsure how long his access to prison legal resources would be interrupted. Id. at 2. The  
21 government opposed the extension. It argued that the Court lacked jurisdiction to extend the  
22 deadline until Gensemer actually filed a petition. Resp. to Mot. to Extend 1–2, ECF No. 1555.  
23 Rather than reply to the government, Gensemer requested leave to file his § 2255 petition and  
24 attached a handwritten motion to vacate or correct sentence to his motion. See Mot. for Leave to  
25 File, ECF No. 1559. Gensemer signed the proposed petition on February 5, 2017, and placed it in  
26 the prison mail system. The Court received the petition and filed it on February 9, 2017.  
27 However, because Gensemer attached his § 2255 petition to his motion for leave to amend (ECF  
28 No. 1559), the petition was not docketed, and a corresponding civil case was not opened.

1 After filing his handwritten § 2255 petition, Gensemer moved to extend time to submit  
2 his supplemental brief that was presumably saved on the prison computer. ECF No. 1574.  
3 Gensemer finally submitted his supplement on August 14, 2017 as part of a Motion to Submit  
4 Attached Count/Ground One Supplement and Additional 2255 and Additional Counts/Grounds  
5 to the Already Filed 2255 Petition. ECF No. 1579. Although styled as a motion to supplement,  
6 Gensemer's motion is better evaluated as a motion to amend his original § 2255 petition, and the  
7 Court elects to treat it as such.

## 8 **II. Legal Standard**

9 A defendant in federal custody may challenge a conviction that “was imposed in  
10 violation of the Constitution or laws of the United States” under 28 U.S.C. § 2255(a). However,  
11 § 2255 is not intended to give criminal defendants multiple opportunities to challenge their  
12 sentences. United States v. Dunham, 767 F.2d 1395, 1397 (9th Cir. 1985). Rather, § 2255 limits  
13 relief to cases where a “fundamental defect” in the defendant's proceedings resulted in a  
14 “complete miscarriage of justice.” Davis v. United States, 417 U.S. 333, 346 (1974). That  
15 limitation is based on the presumption that a defendant whose conviction has been upheld on  
16 direct appeal has been fairly and legitimately convicted. United States v. Frady, 456 U.S. 152,  
17 164 (1982).

18 Because a § 2255 petitioner has already pursued—and lost—a direct appeal, the Court  
19 assumes that the conviction is valid. For that reason, the government need not respond to the  
20 petition until ordered to do so. United States v. Boniface, 601 F.2d 390, 392 (9th Cir. 1979). The  
21 Court may summarily dismiss the petition if it is clear from the record that the petitioner does not  
22 state a claim for relief or if the claims are frivolous or palpably incredible. United States v.  
23 Burrows, 872 F.2d 915, 917 (9th Cir. 1989) citing Baumann v. United States, 692 F.2d 565, 570–  
24 71 (9th Cir. 1982). As always, the Court construes pro se pleadings liberally and in the  
25 petitioner's favor. Erickson v. Pardus, 551 U.S. 89, 94 (2007). Despite that leeway, the pro se  
26 party is still “bound by the rules of procedure.” Ghazali v. Moran, 46 F.3d 52, 53 (9th Cir. 1995).

## 27 **III. Analysis**

28 Despite the security lock downs at FCC Pollock, Gensemer managed to draft and timely

1 file a § 2255 petition.<sup>1</sup> Although that handwritten petition does not include the thorough legal  
2 analysis that Gensemer wished, it did list four causes of action and the basic factual and legal  
3 bases for each. Gensemer's proposed supplement, on the other hand, is indisputably untimely.  
4 Gensemer filed that petition nearly six months after the deadline to do so. However, Gensemer's  
5 proposed amendment may survive if its claims relate back to the timely filed petition.

#### 6 **A. Gensemer's Motion to Amend his Original Petition**

7 The Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act (AEDPA) imposed a statute of  
8 limitations on habeas petitions that did not previously exist. The purpose of the Act was to  
9 "eliminate delays in the federal habeas review process." Holland v. Florida, 560 U.S. 631, 648  
10 (2010). For prisoners in federal custody, 28 U.S.C. § 2255 imposes a one-year statute of  
11 limitations from "the date on which the judgment of conviction becomes final." 28 U.S.C.  
12 § 2255(f)(1); Clay v. United States, 537 U.S. 522, 524 (2003). The date a judgment of conviction  
13 becomes final is somewhat of a moving target because the defendant has multiple options  
14 following the judgment of conviction in the trial court. Where, as here, the defendant loses his  
15 direct appeal but does not pursue Supreme Court review, his conviction becomes final when the  
16 time for seeking certiorari expires. That is ninety days after the conviction is affirmed. United  
17 States v. Winkles, 795 F.3d 1134, 1136 n.1 (9th Cir. 2015).

18 The Ninth Circuit affirmed Gensemer's conviction on November 6, 2015. He had until  
19 February 5, 2016 to petition for certiorari, which he did not do. Thus, Gensemer's one-year clock  
20 started on February 5, 2016. The clock stopped on February 5, 2017, which was a Sunday.  
21 Accordingly, Monday, February 6, 2017, was the last day to timely file his petition under § 2255.  
22 See Fed. R. Civ. P. 6(a)(1)(C). For in-custody defendants, their petition is deemed filed when it  
23 is delivered to prison staff to be forwarded to the Court Clerk. Houston v. Lack, 487 U.S. 266,  
24 276 (1988). Gensemer signed his petition and affirmed that he delivered it for filing on February  
25 5, 2017. Therefore, Gensemer's handwritten petition was timely.

26 Gensemer's supplemental petition, on the other hand, was filed on August 14, 2017, more  
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28 <sup>1</sup> The Court is aware of Gensemer's first Motion to Extend Time (ECF No. 1554). However, even if the  
Court had jurisdiction to decide that motion (see United States v. Leon, 203 F.3d 162 (2d Cir. 2000)), Gensemer  
rendered that motion moot when he filed a timely § 2255 petition (ECF No. 1559).

1 than six months after the deadline to file. That petition is untimely, and the Court will not  
2 consider its allegations unless they relate back to his original petition. The Court applies the  
3 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to habeas petitions so long as those rules do not conflict with  
4 any statutory provisions or other congressionally implemented habeas rules. See Rules  
5 Governing § 2255 Proceedings, R. 12, 28 U.S.C. § 2255 (applying the Federal Rules of Civil  
6 Procedure to § 2255 proceedings). Rule 15 of the Rules of Civil Procedure governs pleading  
7 amendments and “applies to habeas petitions with the same force that it applies to garden-variety  
8 civil cases.” James v. Pliler, 269 F.3d 1124, 1126 (9th Cir. 2001) (internal quotation marks  
9 omitted); 28 U.S.C. § 2242 (habeas petitions “may be amended or supplemented as provided in  
10 the rules of procedure applicable to civil actions”). An amended petition relates back if its claims  
11 arise “out of the conduct, transaction, or occurrence set out—or attempted to be set out—in the  
12 original pleading.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(c)(1)(B).

13         Given AEDPA’s intent to streamline habeas proceedings, the Court narrowly interprets  
14 what constitutes the petition’s underlying transaction or occurrence. Mayle v. Felix, 545 U.S.  
15 644, 662–63 (2005). A new claim does not relate back to the original petition merely because it  
16 arises out of the same trial, conviction, or sentence. Id. at 662–64. Indeed, such a rule would  
17 allow any amendment to a collateral attack and effectively “obliterate” the statute of limitations.  
18 Id. at 659. Rather, the new claim must involve a common core of operative facts of the same  
19 “time and type” set out in the original petition. Id. at 650. At bottom, the new claim relates back  
20 when the original petition provides an “aggregation of facts from which” the new claim arises.  
21 Ross v. Williams, 896 F.3d 958, 964 (9th Cir. 2018). However, if the new claim requires the  
22 movant to plead facts aside from those pleaded in the original petition, the amendment does not  
23 relate back. Id.

24         Gensemer brought four claims in his initial petition: (1) a double jeopardy challenge  
25 under the Fifth Amendment to his conviction in counts one and ten, which he claims are  
26 essentially the same conspiracy; (2) a Sixth Amendment claim of ineffective assistance of  
27 counsel for his counsel’s handling of a potential global plea arrangement; (3) a Fifth Amendment  
28 due process challenge to the Court’s career offender determination; and (4) a Sixth Amendment

1 ineffective assistance of counsel claim that challenges various aspects of counsel's performance  
2 during his pre-trial, trial, and appellate proceedings. ECF No. 1559 Ex. 1. Gensemer's proposed  
3 amendment brings ten claims. However, the additional claims may still relate back if they arise  
4 out of the same transaction or occurrence as the original four claims. The Court will compare  
5 each new ground for relief with the allegations of the original petition to determine whether the  
6 new claims relate back.

7 *1. Ground One in the Amended Petition*

8 Gensemer's first claim, and the claim to which he dedicates the majority of his motion, is  
9 an alleged double jeopardy violation under counts one and ten of the indictment. Proposed  
10 Petition 3, ECF No. 1579 ("Proposed Pet."). Gensemer argues that the government violated the  
11 Fifth Amendment's double jeopardy clause when it charged him with conspiracy to engage in a  
12 corrupt organization (count one of the indictment) and conspiracy to distribute  
13 methamphetamine (count ten of the indictment). Both Gensemer's original petition and his  
14 proposed amendment state this claim. The proposed amendment only differs in the depth of legal  
15 reasoning it includes. Because the two claims are functionally identical, Gensemer's first claim  
16 relates back and may proceed.

17 *2. Ground Two in the Amended Petition*

18 Gensemer's second ground for relief is titled "prosecutorial misconduct." Proposed Pet.  
19 at 29. Gensemer alleges that his trial counsel misled him about the availability of a plea  
20 agreement during the plea negotiation stage. Gensemer claims that he expressed to counsel his  
21 desire to avoid trial. Had he known of a potential plea deal, Gensemer argues, he would have  
22 accepted it. The duty to provide adequate assistance of counsel applies during the plea  
23 negotiation stage just as it does at trial. See Lafler v. Cooper, 566 U.S. 156, 174 (2012). Where  
24 counsel's deficient performance prevents the defendant from accepting a plea deal, the defendant  
25 may have a claim for ineffective assistance. Id.

26 Here, Gensemer alleged in both his original petition and in his proposed amendment that  
27 he wished to avoid trial but was never made aware of a plea offer from the government.  
28 Proposed Pet. at 27–28. Because Gensemer's proposed amendment brings the same claim as his

1 original petition, it relates back. Further, if Gensemer's allegations are true, it is possible that he  
2 could prove his ineffective assistance of counsel claim. Therefore, ground two may proceed.

### 3 *3. Ground Three in the Amended Petition*

4 Next is an ineffective assistance of counsel challenge under the Sixth Amendment.  
5 Proposed Petition at 29. Here, Gensemer claims that his counsel rendered ineffective assistance  
6 of counsel by failing to challenge the Court's determination that Gensemer was a Career  
7 Offender under the sentencing guidelines. Gensemer continues that the Supreme Court's decision  
8 in Johnson v. United States, 135 S. Ct. 2551 (2015), determined that his prior burglary  
9 conviction was not a crime of violence, thereby invalidating the sentencing enhancement. This  
10 claim is also functionally identical to the third claim in Gensemer's original petition. Therefore,  
11 it relates back.

12 Although the claim relates back, it fails because the Supreme Court has since decided  
13 that, unlike Johnson's residual clause, "the advisory Sentencing Guidelines are not subject to a  
14 vagueness challenge under the Due Process Clause." Beckles v. United States, 137 S. Ct. 886,  
15 895 (2017). Because those guidelines are by definition advisory, they merely guide the Court's  
16 discretion. Id. at 892. As a result, the guidelines' residual clause is not void for vagueness. Id. at  
17 895. Therefore, Gensemer cannot recover on this basis, and the Court dismisses ground three of  
18 the amended petition.

### 19 *4. Ground Four of the Amended Petition*

20 Gensemer's fourth claim is for judicial misconduct. He alleges that "The courts violated  
21 due process, [the] Speedy trial act, and his constitutional rights." Proposed Pet. at 29. This  
22 ground for relief does not appear in Gensemer's original petition. Not only does the claim not  
23 appear in the first petition, Gensemer does not allege any facts in that petition that the Court  
24 violated his constitutional rights. To prevail on this claim, Gensemer would have to prove a set  
25 of facts completely separate from his other claims. Therefore, the claim does not relate back, and  
26 the Court dismisses ground four of the amended petition.

### 27 *5. Grounds Five through Ten of the Amended Petition*

28 Each of Gensemer's remaining claims are for ineffective assistance of counsel arising



1 out of Ozzie Fumo's representation during the pre-trial, trial, and appellate proceedings. The  
2 Sixth Amendment guarantees more than just the appointment of counsel; it guarantees effective  
3 assistance of counsel. Strickland v. Washington, 466 U.S. 668, 685 (1984) ("[t]hat a person who  
4 happens to be a lawyer is present at trial alongside the accused, however, is not enough to satisfy  
5 the constitutional command . . . An accused is entitled to be assisted by an attorney . . . who  
6 plays the role necessary to ensure that the trial is fair").<sup>2</sup> Strickland outlines two avenues to  
7 prevail on a claim for ineffective assistance of counsel. Gensemer will prevail if he can show  
8 either: (1) that the government interfered with his right to counsel or (2) that his counsel failed to  
9 provide adequate legal assistance. Strickland, 466 U.S. at 686.

10 Gensemer does not claim that the government interfered with the appointment of his  
11 counsel. He claims that the attorneys he did receive failed to provide an adequate defense. So,  
12 Gensemer is left with Strickland's second prong and must show deficient representation *and*  
13 prejudice. At bottom, Gensemer must show that his attorney committed errors "so serious that  
14 counsel was not functioning as the 'counsel' guaranteed [him] by the Sixth Amendment" and  
15 that those errors prejudiced the outcome of his trial or appeal. See id. at 687. This is an objective  
16 analysis that examines the attorney's behavior compared to "prevailing professional norms." Id.  
17 at 688. The Court is "highly deferential" in its evaluation of trial counsel. Id. at 689. While  
18 hindsight may tempt the Court to critique counsel's performance after the fact, the Court must  
19 presume that counsel's performance was solid trial strategy. Id.

20 Gensemer brought a global ineffective assistance of counsel claim in his original petition.  
21 It was titled, "Ineffective Assistance of Counsel (6th amendment)." ECF No. 1559 Ex 1. at 8. In  
22 the supporting-facts section, Gensemer claimed a laundry list of apparent failures:

23 Failure to: Investigate, move for suppression, trial ineffectiveness,  
24 conflicts affecting plea, misadvice [sic] concerning plea,  
25 sentencing ineffectiveness, failure to properly challenge career  
26 offender amendment, failure to consult client about appeal,  
appellate brief inadequate, failure to raise issue on appeal, failure

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27  
28 <sup>2</sup> Although Strickland encountered an ineffective assistance of counsel claim at a capital sentencing proceeding, its two-prong test also applies to claims arising out of the plea process. See Hill v. Lockhart, 474 U.S. 52, 57 (1985).

1 to seek certiorari, failure to notify [opportunity] for open plea,  
2 failure to subpoena defense witness, General ineffectiveness.

3 Id. Gensemer's proposed petition touches on some of those grievances and ignores the rest.  
4 However, the Court will broadly construe that list of shortcomings as notice of his intent to  
5 plead those claims in his proposed amendment.

6 In ground five, Gensemer argues that trial counsel was ineffective because he failed to  
7 argue that use of the 2007 sentencing guidelines violated Gensemer's constitutional rights.  
8 Proposed Pet. at 30. Basically, Gensemer argues that because his conspiracy began in 1990, he  
9 should have been sentenced under the 1990-version of the sentencing guidelines. The only  
10 possible allegation in Gensemer's original petition that could support relation back is that he  
11 experienced "sentencing ineffectiveness." Original Pet. at 8. However, that blanket statement  
12 does not indicate that counsel's perceived ineffectiveness included the sentencing guidelines in  
13 place at the time of Gensemer's sentencing. Therefore, ground five does not relate back.

14 Even if ground five related back, Gensemer has not pleaded facts to support his claim. It  
15 is true that amendments to the sentencing guidelines that impose a harsher penalty than the prior  
16 guidelines may constitute ex post facto laws. See Peugh v. United States, 569 U.S. 530, 533  
17 (2013). But here, Gensemer has not pleaded facts that the prior version of the guidelines would  
18 have resulted in a more lenient sentence. Similarly, there is no evidence that Gensemer's  
19 conspiracy was not ongoing well after the implementation of the 2007 sentencing guidelines,  
20 making them perfectly appropriate for use at his sentencing. It is clear from the face of  
21 Gensemer's supplemental petition that he cannot prevail on this claim. Therefore, the Court  
22 dismisses Gensemer's claim for ineffective assistance of counsel based on the Court's use of the  
23 2007 version of the sentencing guidelines.

24 Ground six of the amended petition argues that Gensemer's trial counsel was ineffective  
25 because he refused to contest the Court's requirement that Gensemer be shackled during trial.  
26 Proposed Pet. at 30. This claim fails for the same reasons as ground five; it does not relate back  
27 and is not plausible on its face. Again, the only possible claim to which this allegation could  
28 relate back is the blanket assertion that Gensemer suffered "Trial ineffectiveness." Original Pet.

1 at 8. There is no mention of being shackled in Gensemer's first petition and no allegation that  
2 Gensemer was prejudiced because of that. As a result, Gensemer's claim does not relate back  
3 and is untimely.

4 Like ground five, even if ground six related back, it would still fail. A brief review of the  
5 docket reveals that although Mr. Fumo did not move to allow Gensemer to remain unshackled in  
6 the courtroom, the Court heard argument on the issue and still elected to restrain the defendants.  
7 During calendar call on May 12, 2009, Chris Rasmussen, counsel for Gensemer's co-defendant,  
8 requested leave to file a brief requesting that each defendant be unshackled in the jury's  
9 presence. Transcript 18, ECF No. 1269. The Court advised the defendants that it would defer to  
10 the United States Marshals' recommendation on whether a defendant should be shackled in the  
11 courtroom and ordered Mr. Rasmussen to file the brief that day. Id. at 19. Mr. Rasmussen  
12 subsequently moved to have the defendants unshackled, but Gensemer did not join the motion.  
13 See ECF No. 816. The Court considered the motion and denied it.

14 Mr. Fumo's refusal to join that motion or file his own did not prejudice Gensemer  
15 because the Court considered the arguments against restraint and rejected them. See Order, ECF  
16 No. 830. Gensemer presents no evidence or argument that had Mr. Fumo joined Mr.  
17 Rasmussen's motion or filed on his own that the result would be different. It was more likely that  
18 Mr. Fumo understood the futility in the request and made the strategic decision not to file the  
19 motion. Such tactical decisions are not ineffective assistance. See Harrington v. Richter, 562  
20 U.S. 86, 107 (2011) (counsel is "entitled to formulate a strategy that was reasonable at the time  
21 and to balance limited resources in accord with effective trial tactics and strategies"). Therefore,  
22 the Court dismisses ground six as it is untimely and facially unsupported.

23 In grounds seven and eight, Gensemer argues ineffective assistance of counsel for  
24 counsel's failure to adequately defend count fourteen of the indictment (possession of a firearm  
25 in the commission of a drug offense). That conviction added sixty months to Gensemer's  
26 sentence and is required to run consecutive. His claim is that counsel failed to subpoena or call  
27 his girlfriend, Jessica Gonzalez to testify and also failed to present evidence that the firearm  
28 belonged to someone else. According to Gensemer, Jessica Gonzalez was the lone witness who

1 could testify that Gensemer did not own, nor was he aware of the firearm that police found  
2 during a search of his residence. Proposed Pet. at 33–36 (had she been allowed to testify,  
3 Gonzales would have confirmed that Gensemer “did not have any gun [and] was not aware of  
4 any gun in [their] home”). Id. at 35. To make matters worse, Gensemer claims that trial counsel  
5 told Gonzalez that it was “because [Gonzalez] failed to testify . . . Charles was convicted and got  
6 35 years in prison.” Id.

7         The Court finds that grounds seven and eight relate back to Gensemer’s original petition  
8 and that, if true, his allegations could constitute ineffective assistance of counsel. Count four of  
9 Gensemer’s original petition alleged that his trial counsel was ineffective in part because he  
10 “[failed] to subpoena [a] defense witness.” Original Pet. at 8. That witness was Jessica Gonzalez.  
11 It is possible that Gonzalez could have presented evidence that Gensemer never possessed that  
12 firearm had she been called to testify. To be sure, the decision to call or not call a witness  
13 typically falls within the strategy goals of the trial lawyer. However, without knowing why  
14 counsel refused to subpoena or call Gonzalez—or whether Gonzalez could have exculpated  
15 Gensemer—the Court cannot make that determination. Accordingly, grounds seven and eight  
16 relate back and may proceed.

17         Ground nine claims ineffective assistance of counsel at the appellate stage. There,  
18 Gensemer argues that counsel failed to consult with him and refused to include his desired  
19 arguments in the appellate brief, which was lackluster. Gensemer’s original petition classifies  
20 this claim as “failure to consult client about appeal” and “failure to raise issue on appeal.”  
21 Original Pet. at 8. Given that Gensemer included this claim in his original petition, the Court  
22 finds that the claim relates back.

23         However, Gensemer has not shown how counsel’s representation on appeal rises to the  
24 level of ineffective assistance. At its core, Gensemer’s argument reflects his dissatisfaction with  
25 counsel’s refusal to make the arguments Gensemer wanted him to make. That is not ineffective  
26 assistance of counsel. Strickland makes clear that an attorney’s decision not to pursue certain  
27 arguments is not ineffective assistance of counsel when based upon reasonable and professional  
28 judgment. 466 U.S. at 690; see also Evitts v. Lucey, 469 U.S. 387, 394 (1985) (on appeal,

1 counsel “need not advance *every* argument, regardless of merit, urged by the appellant”).  
2 Accordingly, although ground nine relates back, it fails because Gensemer has not alleged facts  
3 to support that claim. Therefore, the Court dismisses ground nine.

4 Finally, in ground ten, Gensemer renews his ineffective assistance of counsel claim from  
5 ground two, which claimed his attorney misrepresented or concealed the details of a potential  
6 plea offer in violation of his Sixth Amendment right to counsel. To the extent that this claim  
7 argues that trial counsel failed to raise the argument, this claim is duplicative and is dismissed.  
8 Further, Gensemer admits that his appellate counsel in fact raised “the Lafler challenge” before  
9 the Ninth Circuit in a request for rehearing but that the Court rejected the argument. Proposed  
10 Pet. at 43. To the extent that Gensemer claims ineffective assistance because his counsel failed to  
11 raise the argument at the appellate stage, the claim is dismissed. Therefore, the Court dismisses  
12 ground ten.

#### 13 **B. Gensemer’s Remaining Claims and Certificate of Appealability**

14 In all, the Court grants in part and denies in part Gensemer’s Motion to Submit Attached  
15 Count/Ground One Supplement and Additional 2255 and Additional Counts/Grounds to the  
16 Already Filed 2255 Petition (ECF No. 1579). The Court finds that the following grounds for  
17 relief relate back and may proceed:

- 18 • *Ground One*: Fifth Amendment Double Jeopardy Claim;
- 19 • *Ground Two*: Ineffective Assistance of Counsel Regarding Global Plea under  
20 Lafler v. Cooper, 566 U.S. 156 (2012); and
- 21 • *Grounds Seven and Eight*: Ineffective Assistance of Counsel for Failure to  
22 Subpoena Witness or Challenge Firearm Possession.

23 Gensemer’s remaining claims are dismissed. For the dismissed claims, the Court denies a  
24 certificate of appealability. A certificate of appealability is only available to a petitioner who has  
25 “made a substantial showing” of a constitutional deprivation in his initial § 2255 petition. 28  
26 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2); Welch v. United States, 136 S.Ct. 1257, 1263 (2016). A petitioner has made  
27 such a showing where reasonable judges could disagree whether he has suffered a constitutional  
28 deprivation. Slack v. McDaniel, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000). Gensemer has not made that showing.

1 The dismissed claims were each either untimely or facially unsupported. As a result, reasonable  
2 judges would not disagree as to their sufficiency.

3 **IV. Conclusion**

4 Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Charles Edward Gensemer's Motion to  
5 Submit Attached Count/Ground One Supplement, which the Court construes as a Motion to  
6 Amend his § 2255 petition (ECF No. 1579) is **GRANTED in part and DENIED in part**. The  
7 Court **DENIES** a certificate of appealability on Gensemer's dismissed claims.

8 The Clerk of the Court is directed to detach Gensemer's Motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255  
9 to Vacate, Set Aside, or Correct Sentence (Exhibit B to ECF No. 1559) and file that motion as  
10 the operative motion in this case. The Clerk is also directed to file Gensemer's supplement to his  
11 Motion to Vacate, which is filed as ECF No. 1579 as an Amended Motion to Vacate or Correct  
12 Sentence under 28 U.S.C. § 2255.


13 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the attorney-client privilege in 2:07-cr-0145-KJD-PAL  
14 between Charles Gensemer and his attorney, Ozzie Fumo, shall be deemed waived for all  
15 purposes related to Gensemer's § 2255 motion to vacate. Former counsel, Mr. Fumo, shall,  
16 within fourteen days of entry of this order, provide the government with an affidavit concerning  
17 all information known to him relating to the allegations in Gensemer's § 2255 petition.

18 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the government shall respond to Gensemer's petition  
19 within thirty-days of the entry of this order. Gensemer may reply to the government's response  
20 within twenty-one days of its entry.

21 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of the Court shall mail Gensemer a copy of  
22 his supplemental § 2255 petition (ECF No. 1579).

23 All remaining motions are **DENIED AS MOOT**.

24 Dated this 28th day of October, 2019.

25  
26 

27 Kent J. Dawson  
28 United States District Judge